

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/849,510

Applicant(s)

LI ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Igor Borissov

3639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment after Non-Final rejection of 4/24/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 15-29 and 31-51.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

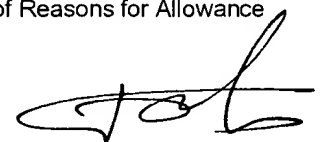
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



IGOR N. BORISSOV
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Amendment received on 4/24/2006 is acknowledged and entered. Claims 14 and 30 have previously been canceled. Claims 1-3, 6, 15, 17-19, 22, 31, 33-51 have been amended. Claims 1-13, 15-29 and 31-51 are currently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112 have been withdrawn due to the applicant's amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-13, 15-29 and 31-51 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per independent Claims 1, 17, 45 and 46, the best prior art, McDonald (US 6,211,781) in view of Hines et al. (US 2001/0040512 A1) teaches a method and system for tracking and locating a moveable article, including: affixing a tag to each good to be tracked and to each conveyance used to store or carry the goods; marking the location of one of the goods at a data appliance and storing information on the location at a site server coupled to the data appliance; uploading the location information to a data center, the data center coupled to the site server; and compensating for missing information by using a previous tag read and a current tag read.

However, McDonald in view of Hines et al. fails to disclose charging users of said supply chain a fee dependent on the number of tracked goods to access said data center and view reports compiled using said location information regarding each tracked good.

Weiderin et al. (US 2002/0029178) teaches method for charging on-line directory assistance services, including tracking a number of accesses for the information by the

Art Unit: 3639

user, and prepare billing information based upon the number of said accesses to the information by the user.

However, there is lack of motivation to combine references.

As per independent Claims 33, 36, 39 and 42, the best prior art, McDonald (US 6,211,781) in view of Hines et al. (US 2001/0040512 A1) teaches a system for tracking and locating a moveable article, comprising: a data center; one or more site servers coupled to the data center; one or more tags each of the tags affixed to a good or conveyance; and means for compensating for missing information by using a previous tag read and a current tag read.

However, McDonald in view of Hines et al. fails to disclose charging users of said supply chain a fee dependent on the number of tracked goods to access said data center and view reports compiled using said location information regarding each tracked good.

Weiderin et al. (US 2002/0029178) teaches method for charging on-line directory assistance services, including tracking a number of accesses for the information by the user, and prepare billing information based upon the number of said accesses to the information by the user.

However, there is lack of motivation to combine references.

The best foreign art, Loo et al. (EP 0 962 877 A1), teaches a method and apparatus for making up and managing a logistic chain for transporting goods, said method including collecting, delivery and packing/unpacking steps, wherein information on the status of execution of said steps is collected.

However, Loo et al. fails to disclose charging users of said supply chain a fee dependent on the number of tracked goods to access said data center and view reports compiled using said location information regarding each tracked good.

The best NPL prior art, "1999 RFID Industry News Archive", teaches a mail tracking system based on radio frequency identification tags which are embedded in

transportable articles, thereby allowing to track said transportable articles during transportation.

However, "1999 RFID Industry News Archive", fails to disclose charging users of said supply chain a fee dependent on the number of tracked goods to access said data center and view reports compiled using said location information regarding each tracked good.

The remaining dependent claims are considered allowable, as they are dependent and based off of an allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

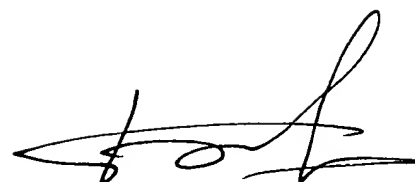
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/849,510
Art Unit: 3639

Page 5

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7/07/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Igor N. Borissov', with a stylized, flowing script.

IGOR N. BORISSOV
PRIMARY EXAMINER